

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

We are writing to express our deeply held concern regarding the Department of Defense's (DOD) failure to publicly release the installation-specific data used to prepare its recommendations as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The release of this data is mandated by law, and the continuing delay of its disclosure will increasingly undermine public faith in the transparency and fairness of DOD's decision-making process. Accordingly, we urge you to immediately release to the public all data used by the individual military services, technical cross-service groups, Infrastructure Steering Group, Infrastructure Executive Council, and Office of Secretary of Defense in formulating DOD's recommendations for base closure and realignment.

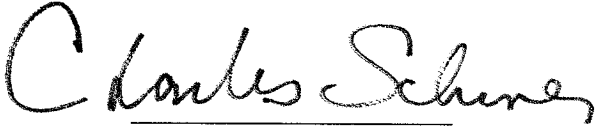
Under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, DOD is required to make all information used by the Secretary of Defense in preparing closure and realignment recommendations available to Congress, the BRAC Commission, and the Comptroller General of the United States within a week of releasing those recommendations. Although DOD has released partial information, including service-specific analysis and recommendations, it has not yet released installation-specific data relating to the determination of military value. Military value is the most important of the BRAC criteria, and by not releasing the facility-specific data used to make that assessment, DOD has thus far failed to meet its statutory disclosure obligations.

The failure to disclose this information in a timely fashion will severely and unfairly handicap the ability of negatively impacted communities to evaluate DOD's rationale for recommending base closures and negative realignments. This matter is particularly time sensitive in light of the fact that BRAC Commissioners are already visiting negatively impacted bases, and regional Commission hearings are slated to begin on June 7th. We are extremely troubled by the fact that by not providing the public with data used in the BRAC decision-making process until there is little or no time left to evaluate the decisions, DOD will undermine the credibility of the entire process.

In order to preserve the integrity of the BRAC process and to provide negatively impacted communities with a fair opportunity to evaluate the decision-making process, we urge you to immediately release all data used in preparing DOD's BRAC recommendations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

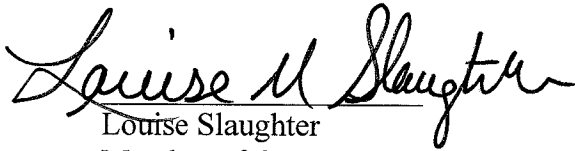
Sincerely,



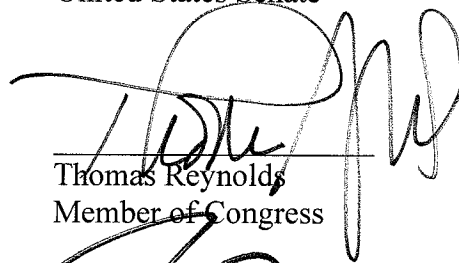
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate



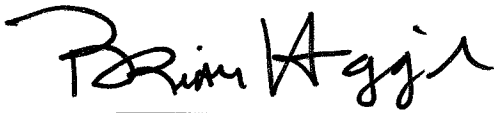
Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate



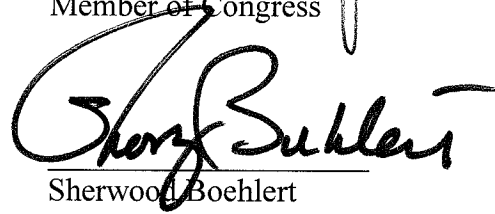
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



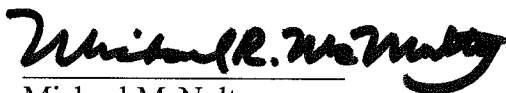
Thomas Reynolds
Member of Congress



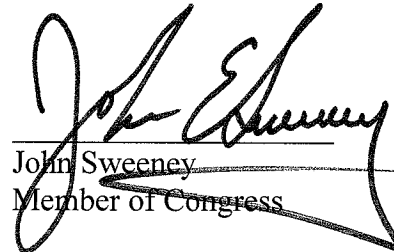
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Sherwood Boehlert
Member of Congress



Michael McNulty
Member of Congress



John Sweeney
Member of Congress